

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, September 28, 2007

The President's Radio Address

September 22, 2007

Good morning. In just 8 days, the State Children's Health Insurance Program—or SCHIP—is set to expire. This important program helps children whose families cannot afford private health insurance, but who do not qualify for Medicaid to get the coverage they need. I strongly supported SCHIP as a Governor and have strongly supported it as President. My 2008 budget proposed to increase SCHIP funding by \$5 billion over 5 years, a 20-percent increase over current funding.

Instead of working with my administration to enact this funding increase for children's health, Democrats in Congress have decided to pass a bill they know will be vetoed. One of their leaders has even said such a veto would be "a political victory." As if this weren't irresponsible enough, Congress is waiting until the SCHIP program is just about to expire before passing a final bill. In other words, Members of Congress are risking health coverage for poor children purely to make a political point.

The proposal congressional leaders are pushing would raise taxes on working Americans and would raise spending by \$35 to \$50 billion. Their proposal would result in taking a program meant to help poor children and turning it into one that covers children in some households with incomes of up to \$83,000 a year. And their proposal would move millions of children who now have private health insurance into Government-run health care. Our goal should be to move children who have no health insurance to private coverage, not to move children who already have private health insurance to Government coverage.

My administration remains committed to working with Congress to pass a responsible SCHIP bill. In the meantime, I called this

week for Congress to make sure health insurance for poor children does not lapse. If they fail to do so, more than a million children could lose health coverage. Health coverage for these children should not be held hostage while political ads are being made and new polls are being taken. Congress must pass a clean, temporary extension of the current SCHIP program that I can sign by September 30th, the date the program expires.

In addition to extending the SCHIP program, Congress needs to focus on passing fundamental spending bills, especially the annual funding bill for the Department of Defense. Congress must also pass additional funding for our troops fighting the war on terror. We need these bills so we can get our men and women in uniform essential equipment, like additional armored fighting vehicles that are resistant to mines and ambushes.

The American people expect their elected leaders in Washington to work together by passing responsible bills in a timely manner. I am confident that with good will on both sides, Democrats and Republicans can do this. We can meet our obligations to help poor children get health coverage. We can meet our responsibilities to the men and women keeping our Nation safe. And we can do our duty to spend the taxpayers' money wisely.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on September 21 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 21 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to the Young Presidents' Organization

September 24, 2007

Thank you all. Please be seated. I've spoken to a lot of people in this room, but rarely have I spoken to a group of people who I can address, Mr. President, or Madam President. *[Laughter]* I thank you for joining us. I appreciate Jim Nussle joining us as well.

I look forward to having—giving you a few remarks on the budget. As business leaders, you know it's important to set priorities and make decisions in a timely way. That's what you do on a daily basis. If you were running a company whose lease was up for renewal in a few months, you'd ask the landlord to start negotiating prices and terms. You would anticipate the cancellation of the—or the renegotiation of the lease. You would ask for time to think about the best way forward, and you wouldn't be happy if the landlord waited until the night before your time was up and then dropped on your desk a 500-page lease that he expected you to sign. In the business world, that's called alienating your customers. *[Laughter]* In Washington, that's called the appropriations process. *[Laughter]*

The fiscal year ends in less than a week. Yet Congress has not sent a single appropriations bill to my desk. Not one. Instead, the congressional leaders may end up lumping all 12 outstanding appropriations bills into one massive, trillion-dollar piece of legislation later this year. This would make it easier for Members to sneak in all kinds of special projects, put in wasteful spending or porkbarrel that they are not willing to debate in the open.

If they think that by waiting until just before they leave for the year to send me a bill that is way over budget and thicker than a phonebook, if they think that's going to force me to sign it, it's not. This would be bad for our country; it would be harmful for our economy; and it would be unfair for the taxpayers.

This is an important time for our economy. For nearly 6 years, we've enjoyed uninterrupted economic growth. Since August 2003, the economy has added more than 8.2 million jobs. Productivity is growing, and that's

translating into larger paychecks for American workers. Unemployment is low; inflation is low; and opportunity abounds. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong.

You know, this economic vitality just didn't happen—in other words, it's—I think it's the result of hard work and people dreaming big dreams and working hard to fulfill them. I also believe it's the result of pro-growth economic policies. And the job in Washington is to keep the environment sound for investment and for growth.

And so with that in mind, last February, I submitted a budget to Congress that fully funds our priorities, yet holds the growth of nonsecurity discretionary spending to less than inflation; it puts us on the path to budget surplus by 2012; and it does all this without raising taxes. In other words, we can meet priorities, and we can do so without raising taxes. I think raising taxes would be bad for the economy and bad for the working people.

Unfortunately, the Democratic majority in Congress has chosen a different path. The plan they have put forward includes an increase in discretionary spending that is nearly \$22 billion more than my budget request. Some in Congress will tell you that \$22 billion is not a lot of money. As business leaders, you know better. As a matter of fact, \$22 billion is larger than the annual revenues of most Fortune 500 companies. And the \$22 billion is only for the first year. With every passing year, the number gets bigger and bigger, and so over the next 5 years, the increase in Federal spending would add up to \$205 billion. And the only way to pay for such a large spending increase is to raise taxes on the American people.

So it's no surprise that the same Members of Congress who are planning the big increase in Federal spending are also planning the largest tax increase in American history. At a time when families are working hard to pay their mortgages or pay for their children going to college, now is not the time to be taking money out of their pocket.

The Founders understood that there would be times when the President and the Congress would have different views about spending and taxes, and so they gave the executive and legislative branches different powers. Congress has the power of the purse,

the authority to pass tax bills and set spending levels. The President has the authority to reject unwise or excessive taxes and spending. And unless Congress has a two-third majority, it must come to an agreement with the President if it wants to get a bill enacted.

Every year, Congress deals with separate bills that fund the day-to-day activities of our Government, everything from defense to homeland security to education and transportation. These 12 spending bills are the normal process by which Congress sets its priorities when they spend your money.

Now we are days away from the end of the year, end of the fiscal year. And as I told you, Congress hadn't finished one of these bills. They got the requirement to do 12; they hadn't done 1. If Congress doesn't get its work done in a week, the Government is not going to have the funding to continue important services. I don't believe the American people should be denied those services because Congress can't get its work done.

Congress needs to pass these annual spending bills. And if they need more time, I urge them to pass a clean continuing resolution. Under a clean continuing resolution, the Government would continue to operate at current funding levels while the Congress works on the annual appropriations bills. The principle should be that there would be no new spending, no new policies, no new projects unless the President and Congress agree in advance on a specific item.

The continuing resolution is not a new idea. This isn't the first time it's—would have happened. The last Congress didn't pass all its appropriations bills on time. And with the help of a continuing resolution, Congress kept the Government running while finishing the work. An earlier Republican Congress did the same thing during President Clinton's second term after a disruptive Government shutdown that no Congress has allowed since.

When the 110th Congress took office earlier this week, the leaders promised to make the legislative process more transparent and to—prove they could be responsible with the people's money. They said, "Give us a chance to be responsible." Well, now is the time to honor those pledges. By passing a clean continuing resolution, Congress would give itself

extra time to complete the 12 annual spending bills, and do them 1 at a time, in a fiscally responsible way.

I believe we can work together to keep your taxes low, to keep the economy growing, and to balance a Federal budget. I appreciate you giving me a chance to come and visit with you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:52 a.m. in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Office of Management and Budget Director James A. Nussle.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority in New York City

September 24, 2007

President Bush. Mr. President, Prime Minister, members of your delegation, thank you for coming. I strongly support the creation of a Palestinian state. I believe it's in the interests of the Palestinian people. I believe it's in the interests of Israel to have a democracy living side by side—democracies living side by side in peace.

And the fundamental question that I ask is, is there leadership that share the vision and are willing to work hard to achieve the vision? And if the answer to that question is yes, the United States of America will be a strong partner in implementing the vision.

I have known the President for quite a while. I am convinced that he is dedicated to the formation of a Palestinian democracy that will live with peace with their neighbor, Israel. And I believe the Prime Minister of Israel is dedicated to the same vision. And therefore, as I told the President, the United States of America will work as hard as we possibly can to help you achieve the vision, Mr. President.

Condi Rice has been very engaged; Secretary Rice has been very engaged in the region. And when she speaks, she's speaking for me and my Government. And I appreciate you taking time to explain to me the hurdles you see, the role you'd like to see the United States play, and your dedication

to a cause that is just and important. I appreciate the fact that you're fighting the extremists who don't share the same kind of view. And I believe that the vision of two states, side by side in peace, is achievable. And we want to help you realize that goal.

So thank you for coming.

President Abbas. Mr. President, thank you very much for receiving us here and for hosting us. We appreciate that very much. I would like to take this opportunity to confirm to you that we truly believe very strongly in the peace process, and we believe very strongly in your vision of establishing a Palestinian, independent, viable state that lives side by side with the State of Israel.

Mr. President, these days we feel hopeful, and we feel and we sense the hope, especially after the call to convene an international meeting during the month of November. We believe that this meeting should deal with the substance and issues of substance that would lead to full negotiations on permanent status that would lead to a permanent peace and a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

And based on our belief of the seriousness of this call, both us and the Israelis have formed the teams that will work immediately in order to negotiate for the issues to be ready and ripe to take it one step further and be prepared and ready prior to the mid-November date for the convening of the meeting.

I also take this opportunity to reaffirm again that we strongly believe in the roadmap, which includes your vision, Mr. President, as well as the Arab initiative. Collectively, together, I believe they represent a strong framework that would allow us and help us to negotiate the permanent status issues and reach an agreement on it.

Therefore, Mr. President, we will continue to count on your work, on your support, and your serious efforts. We have faith and trust in all of this and believe that with the help of this, we'll be able to reach the just and durable peace in the Middle East.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:46 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of

Israel. President Abbas spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil in New York City

September 24, 2007

President Bush. It's a pleasure to be with my friend the President of Brazil. Every time we visit, it's always a fruitful and important discussion. We talked about climate change. And I assured the President that the event we're having in Washington—which he kindly is coming to—is an important meeting about reaching international consensus on how to move together on the issue of climate change.

We talked about alternative fuels. Brazil, under President Lula's leadership, is a leading producer of ethanol. And he is an evangelist on the subject. And I appreciate very much his leadership, because I believe the United States will benefit from ethanol. And so I look forward to working with you. And I want to thank you for your leadership in Haiti.

And finally, we had a good discussion on Doha. We share a commitment to a successful round of trade talks. And I assured the President that the United States would show flexibility, particularly on agricultural goods, in order to help achieve a breakthrough. So I want to thank you for the conversation. It's a joy being with you.

President Lula. First of all, I would like to thank for the opportunity once again to be here with President Bush and with members of his Cabinet. Secondly, we are convinced that on the climate change and the Doha round, we're still dependent on some factors. And one of these factors is the willingness of an important country like the U.S. demonstrating its capability to be flexible.

And President Bush has demonstrated the willingness to reach an agreement—in the many different conversations that we have had, he has demonstrated very clearly his willingness. And the U.S. is willing to be more flexible. And he's also willing to discuss with all countries on climate change. And this has been Brazil's position.

We are convinced that the Doha round is a need; it's something that is a necessity for the rich and for the poor countries. And we'll be—the rich and the developing countries could give a contribution for the less developed countries.

And at the same time, the climate issue is an issue that involves all the human beings on the planet Earth. So all of us, we share responsibility to take care of the planet that we will leave for our grandsons and for our grand-grandsons. We don't want to try to find who to put the blame on or who is innocent. What matters is that everybody has to take care of the planet, because if we don't take of the planet Earth, we will all have something to lose.

I once again told President Bush that Brazil is willing to do its share on the climate issue, as also to cope with what we have to cope with, from the deforestation of the rain forest in the Amazon, which we managed to reduce in 52 percent in the year.

And on the Doha round, Brazil is willing to do whatever is necessary so that we can reach a deal very—[inaudible]. If we manage to convince important countries like China, India, South Africa, Argentina, Mexico, plus the European Union and Japan, I believe that we can, in the next phase, announce good measures as related to the Doha round, as also on the climate change.

So what we are demonstrating is that the issue exists. No one has a definite solution. We are in—just in a learning process on how to cope with this issue. And we all want to do our homework. The demonstration of the political will President Bush has, and myself, is, we're sending a signal that no one owns the truth; everybody knows a little bit and doesn't know so much a little bit too. We want together to add up our knowledge so that we can find the best solutions. Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:48 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. President Lula da Silva spoke in Portuguese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks to the United Nations General Assembly in New York City September 25, 2007

Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: Thank you for the opportunity to address the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Sixty years ago, representatives from 16 nations gathered to begin deliberations on a new international bill of rights. The document they produced is called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and it stands as a landmark achievement in the history of human liberty. The declaration opens by recognizing “the inherent dignity” and the “equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family” as “the foundation of freedom and justice and peace in the world.” And as we gather for this 62d General Assembly, the standards of the declaration must guide our work in this world.

Achieving the promise of the declaration requires confronting long-term threats. It also requires answering the immediate needs of today. The nations in this chamber have our differences, yet there are some areas where we can all agree. When innocent people are trapped in a life of murder and fear, the declaration is not being upheld. When millions of children starve to death or perish from a mosquito bite, we're not doing our duty in the world. When whole societies are cut off from the prosperity of the global economy, we're all worse off. Changing these underlying conditions is what the declaration calls the work of “larger freedom,” and it must be the work of every nation in this Assembly.

This great institution must work for great purposes: to free people from tyranny and violence, hunger and disease, illiteracy and ignorance, and poverty and despair. Every member of the United Nations must join in this mission of liberation.

First, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from tyranny and violence. The first article of the Universal Declaration begins, “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” The truth is denied by terrorists and extremists who kill the innocent with the aim of imposing their hateful vision on humanity.

The followers of this violent ideology are a threat to civilized people everywhere. All civilized nations must work together to stop them by sharing intelligence about their networks and choking their—off their finances and bringing to justice their operatives.

In the long run, the best way to defeat extremists is to defeat their dark ideology with a more hopeful vision, the vision of liberty that founded this body. The United States salutes the nations that have recently taken strides toward liberty, including Ukraine and Georgia and Kyrgyzstan and Mauritania and Liberia, Sierra Leone and Morocco. The Palestinian Territories have moderate leaders, mainstream leaders that are working to build free institutions that fight terror and enforce the law and respond to the needs of their people. The international community must support these leaders, so that we can advance the vision of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

Brave citizens in Lebanon and Afghanistan and Iraq have made the choice for democracy, yet the extremists have responded by targeting them for murder. This is not a show of strength; it is evidence of fear. And the extremists are doing everything in their power to bring down these young democracies. The people of Lebanon and Afghanistan and Iraq have asked for our help, and every civilized nation has a responsibility to stand with them.

Every civilized nation also has a responsibility to stand up for the people suffering under dictatorship. In Belarus, North Korea, Syria, and Iran, brutal regimes deny their people the fundamental rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration. Americans are outraged by the situation in Burma, where a military junta has imposed a 19-year reign of fear. Basic freedoms of speech, assembly, and worship are severely restricted. Ethnic minorities are persecuted. Forced child labor, human trafficking, and rape are common. The regime is holding more than 1,000 political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party was elected overwhelmingly by the Burmese people in 1990.

The ruling junta remains unyielding, yet the people's desire for freedom is unmistakable. This morning I'm announcing a series

of steps to help bring peaceful change to Burma. The United States will tighten economic sanctions on the leaders of the regime and their financial backers. We will impose an expanded visa ban on those responsible for the most egregious violations of human rights, as well as their family members. We'll continue to support the efforts of humanitarian groups working to alleviate suffering in Burma. And I urge the United Nations and all nations to use their diplomatic and economic leverage to help the Burmese people reclaim their freedom.

In Cuba, the long rule of a cruel dictator is nearing its end. The Cuban people are ready for their freedom. And as that nation enters a period of transition, the United Nations must insist on free speech, free assembly, and ultimately, free and competitive elections.

In Zimbabwe, ordinary citizens suffer under a tyrannical regime. The Government has cracked down on peaceful calls for reform and forced millions to flee their homeland. The behavior of the Mugabe regime is an assault on its people and an affront to the principles of the Universal Declaration. The United Nations must insist on change in Harare and must insist for the freedom of the people of Zimbabwe.

In Sudan, innocent civilians are suffering repression. And in the Darfur region, many are losing their lives to genocide. America has responded with tough sanctions against those responsible for the violence. We've provided more than \$2 billion in humanitarian and peacekeeping aid. I look forward to attending a Security Council meeting that will focus on Darfur, chaired by the French President. I appreciate France's leadership in helping to stabilize Sudan's neighbors. And the United Nations must answer this challenge to conscience and live up to its promise to promptly deploy peacekeeping forces to Darfur.

Second, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from hunger and disease. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration states: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food and clothing and housing and medical care." Around the world, the United

Nations is carrying out noble efforts to live up to these words.

Feeding the hungry has long been a special calling for my Nation. Today, more than half the world's food assistance comes from America. We send emergency food stocks to starving people from camps in Sudan to slums in—around the world. I've proposed an innovative initiative to alleviate hunger under which America would purchase the crops of local farmers in Africa and elsewhere, rather than shipping in food from the developed world. This would help build up local agriculture and break the cycle of famine in the developing world. And I urge our United States Congress to support this initiative.

Many in this hall are bringing the spirit of generosity to fighting HIV/AIDS and malaria. Five years ago in sub-Saharan Africa, an AIDS diagnosis was widely considered a death sentence, and fewer than 50,000 people infected with the virus were receiving treatment. The world responded by creating the Global Fund, which is working with governments and the private sector to fight the disease around the world. The United States decided to take these steps a little further by launching the \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Since 2003, this effort has helped bring cutting-edge medicines to more than a million people in sub-Saharan Africa. It's a good start. So earlier this year, I proposed to double our initial commitment to \$30 billion. By coming together, the world can turn the tide against HIV/AIDS once and for all.

Malaria is another common killer. In some countries, malaria takes as many lives as HIV/AIDS—the vast majority of them children under the age of 5 years old. Every one of these deaths is unnecessary because the disease is preventable and treatable. The world knows what it takes to stop malaria: bed nets and indoor spraying and medicine to treat the disease. Two years ago, America launched a \$1.2 billion malaria initiative. Other nations and the private sector are making vital contributions as well. I call on every member state to maintain its focus, find new ways to join this cause, and bring us closer to the day when malaria deaths are no more.

Third, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from the chains of illiteracy and ignorance. Article 26 of the Universal Declaration states: "Everyone has the right to education." And when nations make the investments needed to educate their people, the whole world benefits. Better education unleashes the talent and potential of its citizens and adds to the prosperity of all of us. Better education promotes better health and greater independence. Better education increases the strength of democracy and weakens the appeal of violent ideologies. So the United States is joining with nations around the world to help them provide a better education for their people.

A good education starts with good teachers. In partnership with other nations, America has helped train more than 600,000 teachers and administrators. A good education requires good textbooks. So in partnership with other nations, America has distributed tens of millions of textbooks. A good education requires access to good schools. So in partnership with other nations, America is helping nations raise standards in their schools at home and providing scholarships to help students come to schools in the United States. In all our education efforts, our Nation is working to expand access for women and girls, so that the opportunity to get a decent education is open to all.

Finally, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from poverty and despair. Article 23 of the Universal Declaration states: "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, and to just and favorable conditions of work." In the 21st century, this requires ensuring that people in poor countries have the same opportunity to benefit from the global economy that citizens of wealthy countries have.

The United Nations provides vital economic assistance designed to help developing nations grow their economies and reach their potential. The United States agrees with that position. We've dramatically increased our own development assistance, and we're delivering that aid in innovative ways. We started the Millennium Challenge Account to reward nations that govern justly, fight corruption, invest in their people, and promote economic freedom. With this aid, we're reaching

out to developing nations in partnership, not paternalism. And we're ensuring that our aid dollars reach those who need them and achieve results.

In the long run, the best way to lift people out of poverty is through trade and investment. A nation that is open and trading with the world will create economic rewards that far exceed anything they could get through foreign aid. During the 1990s, developing nations that significantly lowered tariffs saw their per capita income grow about three times faster than other developing countries. Open markets ignite growth, encourage investment, increase transparency, strengthen the rule of law, and help countries help themselves.

The international community now has an historic chance to open markets around the world by concluding a successful Doha round of trade talks. A successful Doha outcome would mean real and substantial openings in agriculture, goods, and services and real and substantial reductions in trade-distorting subsidies. The world's largest trading nations, including major developing countries, have a special responsibility to make the tough political decisions to reduce trade barriers. America has the will and flexibility to make those necessary decisions. Our negotiators are demonstrating that spirit in Geneva. I urge other leaders to direct their negotiators to do the same. And I'm optimistic that we can reach a good Doha agreement and seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

In the meantime, America will continue to pursue agreements that open trade and investment wherever we can. We recently signed free trade agreements with Peru, Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. These agreements embody the values of open markets: transparent and fair regulation, respect for private property, and resolving disputes under international law rules. These are good agreements, and they're now ready for a congressional vote, and I urge the Congress to approve them as soon as possible.

As America works with United Nations to alleviate immediate needs, we're also coming together to address longer-term challenges. Together, we're preparing for pandemics that could cause death and suffering on a global scale. Together, we're working to stop

the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Together, we're confronting the challenges of energy security and environmental quality and climate change. I appreciate the discussions on climate change led by the Secretary-General last night. I look forward to further discussions at the meeting of major economies in Washington later this week.

The goals I've outlined today cannot be achieved overnight, and they cannot be achieved without reform in this vital institution. The United States is committed to a strong and vibrant United Nations, yet the American people are disappointed by the failures of the Human Rights Council. This body has been silent on repression by regimes from Havana to Caracas to Pyongyang and Tehran, while focusing its criticism excessively on Israel. To be credible on human rights in the world, the United Nations must reform its own Human Rights Council.

Some have also called for reform to the structure of the Security Council, including an expansion of its membership. The United States is open to this prospect. We believe that Japan is well-qualified for permanent membership on the Security Council and that other nations should be considered as well. The United States will listen to all good ideas, and we will support changes to the Security Council as part of broader U.N. reform. And in all we do, I call on member states to work for an institution that adheres to strict ethical standards and lives up to the high principles of the Universal Declaration.

With the commitment and courage of this chamber, we can build a world where people are free to speak, assemble, and worship as they wish; a world where children in every nation grow up healthy, get a decent education, and look to the future with hope; a world where opportunity crosses every border. America will lead toward this vision where all are created equal and free to pursue their dreams. This is the founding conviction of my country. It is the promise that established this body. And with our determination, it can be the future of our world.

Thank you, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:57 a.m. in the General Assembly Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of the

United Nations; Srgjan Kerim, President, 62d Session of the U.N. General Assembly; President Fidel Castro of Cuba; President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe; and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq in New York City

September 25, 2007

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, it's good to see you again. We generally meet via TV screens—[laughter]—and now it's good to see you in person. And I appreciate your delegation coming. You brought a very distinguished delegation—Ministers in this Government, the Foreign Minister, the Speaker of the Assembly is with us today—Mr. Speaker, thank you.

We talked about a lot of issues and spent time talking about reconciliation and law. And the Prime Minister and the Speaker are dedicated to getting good law out of the Assembly. And the political parties in Iraq must understand the importance of getting these laws passed. Some politicians may be trying to block the law to gain special advantage. And these parties have got to understand that it's in the interests of Iraq to get good law passed. And so I want to thank you for your dedication and your commitment to laws that will help this young democracy reconcile and move forward.

The Prime Minister and I have talked about a variety of concerns. And I assured him we want his security forces well-trained, mobile, and capable of handling Iraqi security on their own. I have made it clear to the American people that our troop levels will depend upon success. When General Petraeus reported to the country, you know, I talked about troops coming home based upon success. And success in Iraq is important to the future of our country, and it's obviously important to the people of Iraq.

You're sitting in a vital region and when you succeed—which I'm confident you will—it'll send a message to other people who believe in peace. It'll make it easier for people to grow up with a hopeful future in

the Middle East. When that happens, it makes America more secure. If we were to leave before the job is done, chaos could ensue, innocent people would lose their life, extremists would be emboldened, nations that are worried about the United States would—about our commitment would lose their nerve, the countries of the Middle East would be endangered, and that would cause America to be endangered as well.

And so we're with you, Prime Minister. We thank you for the courage of the Iraqi people. We expect there to be reconciliation and law, just like you expect there to be reconciliation and law. And I appreciate your time today. Appreciated your remarks yesterday; I thought they were strong remarks about a hopeful Iraq. And it's good to be with you.

Prime Minister Maliki. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I am grateful to be here with you. I thank you for the meeting with your distinguished delegation and with my delegation.

During the meeting with the President, we have reviewed a number of issues. We have discussed a variety of issues. All of them are common issues that we strongly believe that they represent the mutual goal that we have, the mutual goal of confronting and defeating terrorism, as well as building and continuing to build the Iraqi institutions and the Iraqi Government.

The Iraqi side is fully prepared to assume all the responsibilities and to work for a better future for all of Iraq. We have made it very clear and emphasized that the future of Iraq goes through the gates of national reconciliations, of political agreements. That is the way to make the states, and that's the way to ensure and assure the future of Iraq.

The task before us is gigantic. We have succeeded in ridding Iraq of the dictatorship and the regime that governed there. Now we have another challenge, which is to get rid of terrorism, terrorist organizations. The road will be long; it requires cooperation from everyone and the international community in order to uproot terrorism and secure a better future for everyone.

We believe and we feel that there is a development and progress that's happening every day in our political life, in the way to

manage and administer the country in the security situation. Of course, as the President referred, also we have some spending legislations—that we will continue to exert every possible efforts to have those spending legislations passed. They've been sent to the Iraqi Parliament. But also, we continue to work on the basis of the existing law, and we continue to work to have those legislations passed.

We also discussed the importance of the region where we live. It is a vital region. It is important for Iraq and the region to be away from conflicts, to have a stable region and a stable Iraq, and to uproot terrorism in that part of the world and in that country. Iraq's security is very important, and we have talked about the importance of mutual respect between our two sides and working together for our mutual goals. We have a great deal of confidence that we will be victorious. *Shukran.*

President Bush. *Shukran.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:33 a.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Hoshiyar Mahmud Zebari and Speaker of the House of Representatives Mahmud al-Mashhadani of Iraq; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq. Prime Minister Maliki spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting on Democracy in New York City

September 25, 2007

Thank you all for coming. This is a meeting of people who love liberty and who understand that freedom is universal. I appreciate the ability to share thoughts about how to embolden those who seek reform to stand with those who are willing to fight tyranny, and ways for us all to be effective.

As you know, there are people around the world who are desperate to live in free societies. I think, for example, of those in Burma. And it's incumbent upon those of us who live in free societies to help them. I can think of no better way to work toward freedom than to strategize with leaders from around

the world who are willing to take the hard steps necessary to spread liberty.

And so I'm looking forward to our strategy session. I appreciate your time. I want to thank you very much for your interest in this vital subject. Thanks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:34 p.m. at the United Nations Headquarters.

Remarks During a Meeting With the United Nations Security Council in New York City

September 25, 2007

Mr. President, thank you. And thank you for convening this meeting of the United Nations Security Council. I appreciate the opportunity to join you. And I appreciate your focus is—your focus on the challenges to peace and security in Africa, particularly in Sudan and Darfur.

The reason I say that is, my Nation has labeled what's taking place in Darfur as genocide, and when we find genocide, it's time to do something about it. Time is of the essence. And so, Mr. President, you're focusing our attention on this crucial matter.

I want to thank the Secretary-General, as well, for your support of the people of Darfur. I appreciate your determination to make relieving their suffering a priority of the United Nations.

And I want to thank Chairperson Konare for the leadership of the African Union. After all, you deployed 7,000 troops. But 7,000 troops is not enough, if you believe what's taking place on the ground is genocide. Now maybe some don't think it's genocide, but if you've been raped, you think it's—your human rights have been violated. If you're mercilessly killed by roaming bands, you know it's genocide. And the fundamental question is, are we the free world willing to do more? You've made a strong effort, and we appreciate you. But you know better than me that the area of Darfur is bigger than France, or Texas, and both are plenty big for 7,000 troops.

Your Excellencies, the fighting in Darfur between the rebels and the Government continues. Two hundred thousand people have lost their lives; 200,000 innocents are no

longer with us. More than 2 million people have been forced from their homes. They're fleeing the violence. And they go into refugee camps, and they head into neighboring countries like Chad and Central African Republic.

And that's why I appreciate your leadership, Mr. President, to help these countries help these refugees. The resolution adopted today addresses the plight of the refugees in Chad and Central African Republic. In other words, it's a step in the right direction. It's a practical solution to a big problem. It's a part of a grand solution, Mr. President. That's why your leadership is appreciated.

The resolution authorizes the deployment to these two nations of a robust European peacekeeping force and several hundred police and military advisers. This U.N. mission is going to help national and local governments exercise sovereignty over their territory. It's going to allow workers to deliver humanitarian aid. That makes us feel good. We're spending \$2 billion so far on providing aid, and we want to make sure our aid gets to the people who need help.

And that's why the United States strongly supports the resolution and the mission. We continue to support swift implementation of existing resolutions of this Council. We want the words of this Council to mean something. We want it to be said, when the Council speaks on behalf of suffering people, those words will be followed by action.

And so we call on the Government in Khartoum to facilitate the deployment of a robust U.N. peacekeeping force to save life. We call on all parties to cease arm sales to the combatants. We expect people gathered around this table to send a focused message that innocent life matters. We expect President Bashir to observe a cease-fire during next month's peace talks, and we want the rebels to do the same.

We're tired—the message has got to be, we're tired of people trying to escape the noose of pressure. We want the pressure to be uniform. Why? Because we believe in universal freedom and peace.

The conflict in Darfur has claimed too many lives, and there's too much suffering. The innocent victims of this conflict want only to return to their homes. They want to

live in peace. And it's our duty to help them realize that dream.

Thank you, Mr. President.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:35 p.m. in the Security Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, in his capacity as President of the United Nations Security Council; Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations; Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson, Commission of the African Union; and President Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of Sudan.

Statement on the 50th Anniversary of the Integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas

September 25, 2007

Fifty years ago today, nine students endured bitterness and violence because of the color of their skin and because of their convictions. As an Arkansas high school turned into a battleground for equality, the bravery of the Little Rock Nine inspired a generation of Americans.

Today, we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the integration of Central High School. This anniversary reminds us of our Nation's struggle to fulfill its founding promise for all Americans. We are also reminded of the resilience of the heroes who sacrificed for justice and equality. We honor their courage, and we resolve to continue their work to make America a more perfect Union.

Statement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress

September 25, 2007

Earlier today, the 2007 Nation's Report Card, also known as the National Assessment of Educational Progress, was released. The news is outstanding. Eighth graders achieved their highest scores ever in math, while fourth graders set records in both reading and math. African American and Hispanic students posted alltime highs in a number of categories, which represents progress toward closing the achievement gap.

These scores confirm that No Child Left Behind is working and producing positive results for students across the country. Since No Child Left Behind became law in 2002, the States have been setting standards and holding schools accountable for ensuring that every child can read and do math at grade level. We are successfully challenging the soft bigotry of low expectations and continuing to make significant progress in reforming our schools.

As we commemorate the integration 50 years ago of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, we are reminded of the sacrifices students and their families have made in pursuit of a better education. Today's results demonstrate America's progress in making their dreams a reality, but we have more work to do. Now is not the time to turn back the clock on educational accountability and real options for parents, which No Child Left Behind provides.

The successes detailed in the Nation's Report Card highlight the importance of reauthorizing No Child Left Behind. I have proposed a number of ways to improve the law, by increasing flexibility, helping struggling schools, and empowering parents with more choices. I look forward to continuing to work with lawmakers of both parties to strengthen this important law.

Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations in New York City
September 25, 2007

Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. President, distinguished members of the United Nations community, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: It's my pleasure to welcome you to New York. We look forward to concluding a successful 62d session of the United Nations General Assembly under the leadership of President Kerim.

Mr. Secretary-General, I appreciate your determination to ensure that the United Nations lives up to its high ideals, takes responsibilities seriously, and helps more people live in freedom and justice. You have urged this organization to help the suffering people of Darfur. You have strengthened inter-

national resolve to deter regimes pursuing the world's most dangerous weapons. You have supported freedom and independence for the people of Lebanon and Afghanistan and Iraq.

Under your leadership, the United Nations is addressing global challenges, such as the important issue of climate change. I welcome your efforts to advance the work of U.N. reform and uphold the highest ethical standards throughout this organization.

So, Mr. Secretary-General, in honor of your first year of leadership and in anticipation of your continued leadership in the years to come, I offer a toast to you and to the United Nations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:44 p.m. at the United Nations Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Srgjan Kerim, President, 62d Session of the U.N. General Assembly. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary-General Ban.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan in New York City
September 26, 2007

President Bush. Mr. President, welcome back to the States. It just seemed like yesterday we were at Camp David.

President Karzai. Yes.

President Bush. We had a fruitful set of discussions there, and we've had some this morning.

First of all, I thank you for your courage and your leadership. I appreciate your full understanding that a government that responds to its people is a government that is—provides hope and opportunities. I thank you for the progress report you've given me. This country has gone from a brutal tyranny, where women and girls were repressed, to a country where women and girls have hope. The Department has got strong women in the ranks. Young girls are going to school. Health care is now available in ways like never before.

President Karzai. Child mortality.

President Bush. Child mortality rates are down. And this is a tribute to you and your

Government, the people of Afghanistan's desire to live in peace. It's in the interest of the United States that we continue to help you. It's in our security interests that this democracy flourish because when freedom takes place in Afghanistan, it will set an example for what's possible in other parts of the broader Middle East. When people see that there's hope in a part of the world that had been ravaged by war, had been terrorized by brutal extremists, when people realize there's a different way of life, they'll demand the same things. And it's peace that we all want, and it's liberty that will help us keep that peace.

So, Mr. President, you've got strong friends here. I appreciate your courage. As you know, every time we meet, I ask you, "Are you making progress; are more children going to school; are more health care clinics operating; are the security forces more capable of dealing with the extremists?" I expect progress, and you expect progress. And I appreciate the report that you have given me today. So thank you, and welcome.

President Karzai. Thanks very much, Mr. President. And, as always, thank you for the great hospitality that you have always given to the Afghan people and to me personally, to my delegation. Camp David was a lovely place—I wish one could stay there longer sometime in the future. [*Laughter*]

Afghanistan, indeed, has made progress, but, Mr. President, that should be a tribute to you, your leadership, and the American people for all that we have achieved there in Afghanistan, especially the thing that you mentioned, reduction in child mortality—from a country that was the worst in the world to a country that's coming up and saving 85,000 lives, especially this year, of children under 5; and for a country that was self-sufficient 40 years ago in zero production to becoming again self-sufficient in the production of food after the years of drought, misery, and want, and the roads and education and the Afghan flag flying around the world. So there is an endless list for which we have to be grateful to you.

And most important of all, Mr. President, something that we tend to forget from time to time, the liberation of Afghanistan, such an important thing for the Afghan people.

I don't know if you feel it in the United States, but we feel it so immensely in Afghanistan that we are now, once again, a free country, liberated from the grips of terrorism and Al Qaida and their associates. And we love our flag flying around the world—I love to see it in this room, by the way.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. Good. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:53 a.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Remarks on the No Child Left Behind Act in New York City

September 26, 2007

Good morning. Laura and I are really pleased to be here in New York City and really pleased to be able to be here with the mayor and the superintendent and our Secretary of Education. And particularly, we're pleased to be with the students and principals of—the principal and students of PS 76.

These are hardworking students who are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And we had a chance to visit with them and learn about their dreams, and we really appreciate you all being here. It's exciting for us to be here.

Last week, the school system here in New York City received the Broad Prize for Urban Education. This is one of the most prestigious education prizes in the country. The award is given every year to large urban school districts that have shown the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement, while narrowing the achievement gap amongst poor and minority students.

In bestowing this recognition on New York City, the Broad Prize Committee highlighted the city's strong leadership. And that starts with Mayor Mike Bloomberg. The mayor is a no-nonsense guy who understands that if you set a goal, you expect to see results in achieving that goal. He knows how to ask tough questions, and he's pretty good about moving aside bureaucracy that will inhibit the people he has selected to achieve the goal. And the person he selected to be the

chancellor is Joel Klein, who really is one of the country's finest school superintendents.

I appreciate both these men being here. And I want to congratulate you on this well-deserved honor.

This city tackled the challenges of underperforming schools in such a way that it has become a model for urban schools. This achievement is a hopeful sign for other school districts across America. If New York City can do it, you can do it. And one of the things that's interesting about the prize and our ability to communicate with each other is that if people are truly interested in figuring out how New York City accomplished its objectives, they ought to e-mail the school district. They ought to look at the strategy. They ought to figure out what the mayor and superintendent have done to empower principals and teachers and parents. And teachers and parents and the principals and the students also deserve credit when it comes to recognizing this award.

I also believe that part of the reason why New York City did well is because of the No Child Left Behind Act, which raises standards, insists upon accountability in the schools all across our country. The No Child Left Behind Act is working. I say that because the Nation's Report Card says it's working. Scores are improving, in some instances hitting alltime highs. Children across America are learning. The achievement gap that has long punished underprivileged students is beginning to close. And I'm going to spend a little time talking about that today.

First, I do want to recognize the Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings. I do want to recognize Louise Sedotto, who is the principal of PS 76. You know, one of the things that's interesting—I bet you Joel will tell you this—that when you find a school that is performing well, you find a principal who is willing to think outside the box and lead. And I appreciate you being here, Louise, and I congratulate you and your teachers. I bet you, when I ask your teachers, do they like you, they'll say, "We not only like her; we love her." *[Laughter]*

And I want to thank the students again who are here. And the reason I'm glad they're standing here is because all the old folks up here recognize that the future of

our country depends on a high-quality education for our children. And that was the reason why people from both political parties came together in Washington to pass the No Child Left Behind Act.

The law is based on this premise: The Federal Government invests money in education, and we ought to expect results in return for that investment. It's a pretty simple principle. If you're a taxpayer and you're spending your money, you want to make sure that money gets good results. And the best way to determine whether you get good results is to measure. Instead of just hoping for the best, we've asked States to set standards to hold schools accountable so that every child can read and do math at grade level.

Measuring results is important because it helps teachers spot problems early. You can't solve a problem unless you diagnose the problem, and it's best to diagnose problems early in a child's life. Measuring results gives parents information. If you're interested in getting parents involved in your schools, just post your results up for people to read. It's amazing how it gets a parent's attention when the schools aren't meeting expectations.

A system that doesn't hold people to account assumes that certain children cannot learn and that it's acceptable to shuffle them through school. Well, that's not acceptable in America, to shuffle children through school. That's what I have called the soft bigotry of low expectations. Through the No Child Left Behind Act, we have challenged that soft bigotry. And the Nation's Report Card shows we're making good progress.

Here's how the Report Card works. More than 700,000 students from every State have been tested. They've been tested in math and reading, and here are the results. In math, the scores for fourth and eighth graders were higher than they've ever been. In reading, the scores for fourth graders were also the highest on record. The Nation's Report Card shows that some of the achievement gaps amongst African Americans and Hispanic students are narrowing. In the fourth grade reading, the achievement gap between white and African American students is at an all-time low. In the eighth grade math, the achievement gap between white and African American and white and Hispanic students

has narrowed since 2003. What all this means is, No Child Left Behind Act is working for all kinds of children in all kinds of schools in every part of the country.

And so we've got to build on the progress. And that means Congress needs to reauthorize and strengthen the No Child Left Behind Act. The act is working; Congress needs to reauthorize it and make it better. Through this law, our Nation has made an historic commitment to America's children, and we have a moral obligation to keep that commitment. We must ensure that they have the skills they need to succeed in life, and in a global economy, that becomes even more important.

As Congress considers reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, I've offered several proposals to help strengthen it. And Secretary Spellings is going to be on Capitol Hill to explain why these proposals will make a good law even better. One, we can lift achievement—student achievement higher by giving local leaders more flexibility in the law as well as providing funding to turn around troubled schools. I believe student achievement will be enhanced when families with children stuck in low-performing schools have a opportunity to send their child to a better school.

We should increase access to tutoring programs for students who struggle and make sure these children get the special help they need. If you measure and you find a problem, it's time to provide tutoring for those children so they can get up to speed. That's what happens here in New York City. The mayor and the superintendent and the principal say, "When we find a problem, we're going to address that problem early." And it's working.

We should reward teachers who improve student achievement in low-income schools. When you find a good teacher willing to go into a school that needs help, that teacher ought to be given an additional incentive.

We should make sure our children are prepared for the jobs of the future by expanding access to Advanced Placement courses and strengthening math and science education. As yesterday's positive Report Card shows, children do learn when standards are high and results are measured.

And so my call to the Congress is, don't water down this good law. Don't go backwards when it comes to educational excellence. Don't roll back accountability. We've come too far to turn back. And so Congress needs to work with this administration to pass legislation that helps—gives our children the education they deserve.

I don't think there's anything more important than the education of young people. I know that's how the mayor feels, and I know that's how the superintendent feels, and I know that's how Laura and Margaret feel. There's nothing more American than ensuring that all our children have the chance to realize their fullest potential and their highest dreams. And the improvement in New York City's public schools reminds us of what we can achieve when we set big goals and work hard to meet them.

And so I'm proud to be here to congratulate the good folks of New York City. I want to thank all involved with making sure our children have the skills necessary to realize the great hope of America. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:29 a.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Joel I. Klein, chancellor, New York City Department of Education; and Louise Sedotto, principal, PS 076 The Bennington School. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on Signing the College Cost Reduction and Access Act

September 27, 2007

Thank you all. Please be seated—unless you don't have a chair. [*Laughter*] I welcome you to the White House. I have the honor of signing a bill that will help millions of low-income Americans earn a college degree. I'm really looking forward to signing this bill. I love the fact that this country is dedicated to helping people who want to realize a dream.

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act expands one of America's most important and successful education initiatives, the Federal Pell Grant Program. For the last 6 years, I've worked to make sure that we expand Pell

grants. I know the Members of Congress feel the same way. Pell grants give young people a chance to pursue their dreams. They give our fellow citizens the chance to build a better future.

The bill also takes important steps to put higher education within reach for more of the men and women who wear our Nation's uniform. I want to thank the Congress for answering this call. I appreciate your hard work on this piece of legislation, and I'm looking forward to signing the bill.

I want to thank the Secretary of Education for her hard work. Margaret Spellings is dedicated to making sure every child can learn and every child can realize dreams. I want to thank you for establishing the bipartisan Commission for the Future of Higher Education. The Commission engages students and families and policymakers and business leaders in the academic community on ways to improve higher education and to make it more affordable and accessible. I appreciate you taking that on, Margaret.

I want to thank Congressman George Miller from California who has joined us. He happens to be the chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee. When George puts his mind to getting something done, he can get it done. I'm about to call to—get him to—call him to get this No Child Left Behind Act reauthorized. *[Laughter]* But I don't want to mix messages early in the speech. *[Laughter]*

I thank Congressman Ric Keller from Florida and Congressman John Spratt, who is the chairman of the House Budget Committee. I'm honored you all joined us. Members of the Senate need to be thanked as well: Senator Ted Kennedy, Mike Enzi, Orrin Hatch, and Lamar Alexander. They were going to be here, but they got votes on the Senate floor, so they're here in spirit.

I want to thank the students who have joined us today. I appreciate you all being here. These are Pell grant recipients. We believe it's important to put a face behind what it means to get a Pell grant. In other words, every one of these folks up here is benefiting from the Pell grant, so he or she can realize their dreams. That's what America is all about, isn't it?

The other thing is, this is a practical approach to dealing with the fact that we're—live in an age in which technology is transforming the way we live and work. And in order for our citizens to be able to seize the opportunities of a new era, they're going to have to have skills that can be only learned through a post-secondary education. That's the realities of the world in which we live. According to 1 study, 80 percent of the fastest-growing jobs in America require some sort of education after high school. Times are changing. When we were—when the baby boomers like me were younger—it's a different era. We're living in a global economy. And we've got to stay competitive as we head into the 21st century, and the best way to stay competitive is to make sure people have access to good education.

And one of the best ways to make higher education affordable is through Pell grants. Pell grants make it possible for people from all walks of life to afford a college education. Pell grants send an important message to students in need: If you work hard and you stay in school and you make the right choices, the Federal Government is going to stand with you. That's what a Pell grant says.

With us today are a number of young Americans whose lives have been transformed—I'm going to mention two. Robert Garcia—I'm mentioning him because he's a remarkable story, but also, he happens to be from Texas. *[Laughter]* His family struggled financially. Robert's mom sacrificed mightily to get him a good education. By the way, that happens all across our country. Parents are sacrificing mightily to make sure their children can realize a dream. With her support—with his mom's support, he became a leader in his high school band, and he graduated fifth in his class.

A Pell grant made it possible for Robert to go to the University of Texas, where he has just begun his junior year. The lowest grade he's made so far in college is B. That sets him apart from the President. *[Laughter]* Robert wants to use his education to get involved in public policy, so he can help at-risk youth. Here's what Robert says: "The Pell grant has saved my life." That's got to make us feel good, to hear that. "The Pell grant has saved my life. They've provided me

with everything I need to survive: living expenses, tuition, books, and food. Without the Pell grant, I wouldn't be here."

Kalise Robinson—she grew up in Washington, DC. She was shuffled through the foster care system, and she was mistreated for much of her childhood. But she never lost her spirit. She was struggling to support her children, and she asked for help, and she found it from a community outreach group. They helped her find shelter, and she got a GED. In 2005, with the help of a Pell grant, Kalise entered the University of District of Columbia. She currently has a 3.3 grade point average, and when she graduates, she wants to help somebody else. Kalise says, "I came from a rough life. The Pell grant helped me. Wherever I go, I tell people there are options out there for you. If you work hard, there is help and money out there for you." We thank you both for being here. Thank you all for coming too.

And so today is a reaffirmation of our commitment, our determination to help more Americans realize dreams by getting a good education. The bill I sign today increases funding for Pell grants by \$11.4 billion over the next 5 years. It allows us to increase the maximum award from 5,400—to \$5,400 by 2012. And these are positive steps, and they're good steps. I wish we could make the Pell grant process last year round. I think that would be helpful. I want to work with the Members of Congress to see if we can't get that done. That recognizes the realities for Pell grant recipients.

The bill also helps ease the burden on men and women in uniform who have taken out loans for higher education. We believe that when you're wearing the uniform, we need to help you; that you're making a sacrifice, and it's okay for the Government to help you in dealing with your loans when it comes to higher education. And so those on active duty will now have new flexibility to defer payments on their loans.

These are important steps. This bill does, however, create new and duplicative programs that divert resources from the Pell

grants. This bill makes some spending commitments that aren't paid for yet, and I look forward to working with the Congress to ensure Pell grant increases that are not fully funded in this bill are paid for with offsets in other areas. And we're going to continue working with Congress to make sure the Pell grants stay strong.

I also do want to mention No Child Left Behind, if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman. [Laughter] Chairman Miller was one of the main reasons why this bill got off the House floor in the first place. He's one of the main leaders to make sure the bill got to my desk.

And the reason I bring it up is, in order to make sure we've got more children ready for college, the No Child Left Behind Act needs to be reauthorized and strengthened. Just this week, we saw what happens when you have high standards and you measure, measure for results. Those results were reported out through the Nation's Report Card. About 700,000 people were tested nationwide to determine whether or not standards are being met. Eighth graders achieved their highest scores ever in math, while fourth graders set records in both reading and math. African American and Hispanic students posted alltime highs in a number of categories. In other words, that achievement gap is beginning to close in America. It's something that we all want to see happen.

There is nothing more important than making sure our children get a good education. Today we've taken an important step in that direction. I'm hoping we can get the No Child Left Behind Act reauthorized and strengthened. I appreciate the Members being here today. I thank you for your hard work on this. I'm honored to sign this piece of legislation, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act.

Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:32 a.m. in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. H.R. 2669, approved September 27, was assigned Public Law No. 110-84.

**Remarks Following a Meeting With
Secretary of Transportation Mary E.
Peters and Federal Aviation
Administration Acting Administrator
Robert A. Sturgell**
September 27, 2007

The President. Today I'm joined by Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters and the Acting Administrator of the FAA, Bobby Sturgell. I want to thank you all for coming.

We've been having a discussion about the fact that a lot of our air travelers are not only inconvenienced, they're—in some cases, they're just not being treated fairly. And there's a lot of anger amongst our citizens about the fact that, you know, they're just not being treated right.

And the Secretary and I have been talking about what to do about it, and I've instructed her to report back to me as quickly as possible on two matters: One, to make sure that consumers are treated fairly and complaints are listened to, and that we address some of the egregious behavior that our consumers have been subjected to. Endless hours sitting in an airplane on a runway, and there's no communication between the pilot and the airport, it's just not right. And so Mary is going to work very hard to make sure the system is much more responsive.

The other issue, of course, is dealing with congestion. And one of the reasons why our consumers on airlines, airline passengers are being so inconvenienced is because the skies are too crowded. And there's some short-term things we're going to do, and Mary is going to report back to me about what those will be.

Also, Congress needs to look at this FAA reauthorization—I call it modernization—and work with this Department and work with Bobby bringing our FAA into the 21st century, so that our consumers and passengers and citizens won't be inconvenienced the way they are.

Now, we've got a problem; we understand there's a problem; and we're going to address the problem. Madam Secretary, I appreciate your willingness to do so.

Secretary Peters. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Statement on the Situation in Burma
September 27, 2007

The world is watching the people of Burma take to the streets to demand their freedom, and the American people stand in solidarity with these brave individuals. We feel admiration and compassion for the monks and peaceful protesters calling for democracy. Every civilized nation has a responsibility to stand up for people suffering under a brutal military regime like the one that has ruled Burma for too long. I call on all nations that have influence with the regime to join us in supporting the aspirations of the Burmese people and to tell the Burmese junta to cease using force on its own people, who are peacefully expressing their desire for change. By its own account, the junta has already killed at least nine nonviolent demonstrators, and many others have been injured and arrested as they seek to express their views peacefully. I urge the Burmese soldiers and police not to use force on their fellow citizens. I call on those who embrace the values of human rights and freedom to support the legitimate demands of the Burmese people.

**Executive Order 13445—
Strengthening Adult Education**
September 27, 2007

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to use existing Federal programs that serve adults, including new Americans, to strengthen literacy skills, improve opportunities for postsecondary education and employment, and facilitate participation in American life.

Sec. 2. Definitions. As used in this order:

(a) "agency" means an executive agency as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, other than the Government Accountability Office; and

(b) “adult education” means teaching or instruction below the postsecondary level, for individuals who are 16 years of age or older, designed to provide:

- (i) mastery of basic education skills needed to function effectively in society;
- (ii) a secondary school diploma or its equivalent; or
- (iii) the ability to speak, read, or write the English language.

Sec. 3. Establishment of Interagency Adult Education Working Group. The Secretary of Education shall establish within the Department of Education for administrative purposes only, an Interagency Adult Education Working Group (Working Group), consistent with this order.

Sec. 4. Membership and Operation of the Working Group.

(a) The Working Group shall consist exclusively of:

- (i) the Secretary of Education, who shall serve as Chair;
- (ii) the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, and the Secretaries of the Interior, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Veterans Affairs; and
- (iii) other officers or full-time or permanent part-time employees of the United States, as determined by the Chair, with the concurrence of the head of the agency concerned.

(b) The Chair, or the Chair’s designee under subsection (c) of this section, in implementing section 5 of this order, shall convene and preside at the meetings of the Working Group, determine its agenda, direct its work, and establish and direct subgroups of the Working Group, as appropriate to deal with particular subject matters, that shall consist exclusively of members of the Working Group or their designees under subsection (c) of this section.

(c) A member of the Working Group may designate, to perform the Working Group or Working Group subgroup functions of the member, any person who is a part of the member’s agency and who is either an officer of the United States appointed by the President or a member of the Senior Executive Service.

Sec. 5. Functions of the Working Group. Consistent with the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the Working Group shall:

- (a) identify Federal programs that:
 - (i) focus primarily on improving the basic education skills of adults;
 - (ii) have the goal of transitioning adults from basic literacy to postsecondary education, training, or employment; or
 - (iii) constitute programs of adult education;
- (b) as appropriate, review the programs identified under subsection (a) of this section and submit to the heads of the agencies administering those programs recommendations to:
 - (i) promote the transition of adults from such programs to postsecondary education, training, or employment;
 - (ii) increase the effectiveness, efficiency, and availability of such programs;
 - (iii) minimize unnecessary duplication among such programs;
 - (iv) measure and evaluate the performance of such programs; and
 - (v) undertake and disseminate the results of research related to such programs;
- (c) identify gaps in the research about effective ways to teach adult education for postsecondary readiness, recommend areas for further research to improve adult education programs and services, and identify promising practices in disseminating valid existing and future research findings; and
- (d) obtain information and advice as appropriate, in a manner that seeks individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or consensus advice or deliberation, concerning adult education from:
 - (i) State, local, territorial, and tribal officials; and
 - (ii) representatives of entities or other individuals;
- (e) at the request of the head of an agency, unless the Chair declines the request, promptly review and provide advice on a proposed action by that agency relating to adult education; and
- (f) report to the President, through the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, on its work, and on the implementation of any recommendations arising from its work, at such times and in such formats as the

Chair may specify, with the first such report to be submitted no later than 9 months after the date of this order.

Sec. 6. Administration of the Working Group. (a) To the extent permitted by law, the Department of Education shall provide the funding and administrative support the Working Group needs, as determined by the Chair, to implement this order.

(b) The heads of agencies shall provide, as appropriate, such assistance and information as the Chair may request to implement this order.

Sec. 7. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) authority granted by law to an agency or the head thereof; or

(ii) functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the United States, its agencies or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 27, 2007.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
8:45 a.m., October 1, 2007]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 2.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting Proposed Legislation
To Implement the United States-
Peru Free Trade Agreement
September 27, 2007**

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement represents a historic development in our rela-

tions with Peru, and it reflects the commitment of the United States to supporting democracy and economic growth in Peru. It will also help Peru battle illegal crop production by creating alternative economic opportunities.

In negotiating this Agreement, my Administration was guided by the objectives set out in the Trade Act of 2002. The Agreement will create significant new opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, businesses, and consumers by opening new markets and eliminating barriers.

Under the Agreement, tariffs on approximately 80 percent of U.S. exports will be eliminated immediately. This will help to level the playing field, since over 97 percent of our imports from Peru already enjoy duty-free access to our market under U.S. trade preference programs. United States agricultural exports will enjoy substantial new improvements in access. Almost 90 percent, by value, of current U.S. agricultural exports will be able to enter Peru duty-free immediately, compared to less than 2 percent currently. By providing for the effective enforcement of labor and environmental laws, combined with strong remedies for noncompliance, the Agreement will contribute to improved worker rights and high levels of environmental protection in Peru.

The Agreement forms an integral part of my Administration's larger strategy of opening markets around the world through negotiating and concluding global, regional, and bilateral trade initiatives. The Agreement provides the opportunity to strengthen our economic and political ties with the Andean region, and underpins U.S. support for democracy and freedom while contributing to further hemispheric integration.

Approval of this Agreement is in our national interest.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 27, 2007.

**Remarks During a Meeting on
Energy Security and Climate Change**
September 28, 2007

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you. Good morning. Thank you. Welcome to the State Department. I'm honored to address this historic meeting on energy security and climate change. And I appreciate you all being here.

Energy security and climate change are two of the great challenges of our time. The United States takes these challenges seriously. The world's response will help shape the future of the global economy and the condition of our environment for future generations. The nations in this room have special responsibilities. We represent the world's major economies; we are major users of energy; and we have the resources and knowledge base to develop clean energy technologies.

Our guiding principle is clear: We must lead the world to produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions, and we must do it in a way that does not undermine economic growth or prevent nations from delivering greater prosperity for their people. We know this can be done. Last year, America grew our economy while also reducing greenhouse gases. Several other nations have made similar strides.

This progress points us in the right direction, but we've got to do more. So before this year's G-8 summit, I announced that the United States will work with other nations to establish a new international approach to energy security and climate change. Today's meeting is an important step in this process. With the work we begin today, we can agree on a new approach that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen energy security, encourage economic growth and sustainable development, and advance negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

I thank the State Department for hosting this event. I appreciate members of my Cabinet who have joined us today. I thank Jim Connaughton, who is the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, for being here. I appreciate you being the personal representative of this, and I hope you're

doing—I hope you think he's doing a fine job. *[Laughter]*

I welcome Minister Rachmat, the Minister of Environment of Indonesia, who is the chairman of the upcoming U.N. climate meeting in December. I welcome Mr. de Boer, who is the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. I welcome all the Ministers and delegates who are here. We really appreciate you coming. I thank the Ambassadors for joining this august group.

I thank Members of the Congress who have taken time to come by: Congressman Ed Markey of Massachusetts and Congressman Bart Gordon of Tennessee. I appreciate you taking time to come by and participate in these meetings.

Every day, energy brings countless benefits to our people. Energy powers new hospitals and schools, so we can live longer and more productive lives. Energy transforms the way we produce food, so we can feed our growing populations. Energy enables us to travel and communicate across great distances, so we can expand trade and prosperity. Energy sustains the world's most advanced economies, which makes it possible for us to devote resources to fighting hunger and disease and poverty around the globe.

In this new century, the need for energy will only grow. Much of this increased demand will come from the developing world, where nations will need more energy to build critical infrastructure and grow their economies, improve the lives of their people. Overall, the demand for energy is expected to rise by more than 50 percent by 2030.

This growing demand for energy is a sign of a vibrant, global economy. Yet it also possesses—poses serious challenges, and one of them, of course, is energy security. Right now much of the world's energy comes from oil, and much of the oil comes from unstable regions and rogue states. This dependence leaves the global economy vulnerable to supply shocks and shortages and manipulation and to extremists and terrorists who could cause great disruptions of oil shipments.

Another challenge is climate change. Our understanding of climate change has come a long way. A report issued earlier this year

by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded both that global temperatures are rising and that this is caused largely by human activities. When we burn fossil fuels, we release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and the concentration of greenhouse gases has increased substantially.

For many years, those who worried about climate change and those who worried about energy security were on opposite ends of the debate. It was said that we faced a choice between protecting the environment and producing enough energy. Today, we know better. These challenges share a common solution: technology. By developing new low-emission technologies, we can meet the growing demand for energy and, at the same time, reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, our nations have an opportunity to leave the debates of the past behind and reach a consensus on the way forward. And that's our purpose today.

No one country has all the answers, including mine. The best way to tackle this problem is to think creatively and to learn from others' experiences and to come together on a way to achieve the objectives we share. Together our nations will pave the way for a new international approach on greenhouse gas emissions.

This new approach must involve all the world's largest producers of greenhouse gas emissions, including developed and developing nations. We will set a long-term goal for reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. By setting this goal, we acknowledge there is a problem. And by setting this goal, we commit ourselves to doing something about it.

By next summer, we will convene a meeting of heads of state to finalize the goal and other elements of this approach, including a strong and transparent system for measuring our progress toward meeting the goal we set. This will require concerted effort by all our nations. Only by doing the necessary work this year will it be possible to reach a global consensus at the U.N. in 2009.

Each nation will design its own separate strategies for making progress toward achieving this long-term goal. These strategies will reflect each country's different energy re-

sources, different stages of development, and different economic needs.

There are many policy tools that nations can use, including a variety of market mechanisms to create incentives for companies and consumers to invest in new low-emission energy sources. We will also form working groups with leaders of different sectors of our economies, which will discuss ways of sharing technology and best practices.

Each nation must decide for itself the right mix of tools and technologies to achieve results that are measurable and environmentally effective. While our strategies may be differentiated, we share a common responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while keeping our economies growing.

The key to this effort will be the advance of clean energy technologies. Since I became President, the United States Government has invested nearly \$18 billion to research, develop, and promote clean and efficient energy technologies. The private sector here in our country has responded with significant investments, ranging from corporate research and development to venture capital. Our investments in research and technology are bringing the world closer to a remarkable breakthrough, an age of clean energy where we can power our growing economies and improve the lives of our people and be responsible stewards of the Earth the Almighty trusted to our care.

The age of clean energy requires transforming the way we produce electricity. Electric powerplants that burn coal are the world's leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions. The world's supply of coal is secure and abundant. And our challenge is to take advantage of it while maintaining our commitment to the environment. One promising solution is advanced clean coal technology. The future of this technology will allow us to trap and store carbon emissions and air pollutants produced by burning coal. Since 2001, the United States has invested more than two and a half billion dollars to research and develop clean coal. And in partnership with other nations and the private sector, we're moving closer to an historic achievement: producing energy from the world's first zero-emissions coal-fired plant.

We also need to take advantage of clean, safe nuclear power. Nuclear power is the one existing source of energy that can generate massive amounts of electricity without causing any air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions. Without the world's 439 nuclear powerplants, there would be nearly 2 billion additional tons of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere each year. And by expanding the use of nuclear power, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions even more.

The United States is working to reduce barriers to new nuclear powerplants in our country without compromising safety. Just last week, a company applied for approval to build the first new nuclear reactor in my country since the 1970s.

As we build new reactors here in the United States, we're also working to bring the benefits of nuclear energy to other countries. My administration established a new initiative called the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. This partnership will work with nations with advanced civilian nuclear energy programs, such as France and Japan and China and Russia. Together we will help developing nations obtain secure, cost-effective, and proliferation-resistant nuclear power, so they can have a reliable source of zero-emissions energy.

We'll also need to expand our use of two other promising sources of zero-emissions energy, and that's wind and solar power. Wind power is becoming cost-effective in many parts of America. We've increased wind energy production by more than 300 percent. We also launched the Solar America Initiative to lower the cost of solar power, so we can make—help make this technology competitive as well. Taken together, low-carbon technologies like wind and solar power have the potential to one day provide up to 20 percent of America's electricity.

The age of clean energy also requires transforming the way we fuel our cars and trucks. Almost all our vehicles run on gasoline or diesel fuel. This means we produce greenhouse gas emissions whenever we get behind the wheel. Transportation accounts for about 20 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions every year. To reduce these emissions, we must reduce our dependence on oil. So America is investing in

new, clean alternatives. We're investing millions of dollars to develop the next generation of sustainable biofuels like cellulosic ethanol, which means we'll use everything from wood chips to grasses to agricultural waste to make ethanol.

We're offering tax credits to encourage Americans to drive fuel-efficient hybrid vehicles. We're working to develop next-generation plug-in hybrids that will be able to travel nearly 40 miles without using a drop of gasoline. And your automobile doesn't have to look like a golf cart. *[Laughter]*

We're on track to meet our pledge of investing \$1.2 billion to develop advanced hydrogen-powered vehicles that emit pure water instead of exhaust fumes. We're also taking steps to make sure these technologies reach the market. We've asked Congress to set a new mandatory—I repeat, mandatory—fuel standard that requires 35 billion gallons of renewable and other alternative fuels in 2017 and to reform fuel economy standards for cars the same way we did for light trucks. Together these two steps will help us cut America's consumption of gasoline by 20 percent in 10 years. It's an initiative I've called 20-in-10.

Ushering in the age of clean energy is an historic undertaking. We take it seriously here in the United States. And achieving this vision will require major investment in innovation by all our nations. Today, the United States and Japan fund most of the research and development for clean energy technologies. But meeting the objectives we share and the goal we're going to set will require all the nations in this hall to increase their clean energy research and development investments.

We must also work to make these technologies more widely available, especially in the developing world. So today I propose that we join together to create a new international clean technology fund. This fund will be supported by contributions from Governments from around the world, and it will help finance clean energy projects in the developing world. I've asked Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson to coordinate this effort, and he plans to begin exploratory discussions with your countries over the next several months.

At the same time, we also must promote global free trade in energy technology. The most immediate and effective action we can take is to eliminate tariff and nontariff barriers on clean-energy goods and services.

As we work to transform the way we produce energy, we must also address another major factor in climate change, which is deforestation. The world's forests help reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by storing carbon dioxide. But when our forests disappear, the concentration of greenhouse gas levels rise in the atmosphere. Scientists estimate that nearly 20 percent of the world's greenhouse gas admissions are attributable to deforestation.

We're partnering with other nations to promote forest conservation and management across the world. We welcome new commitments from Australia, Brazil, with China and Indonesia. The United States remains committed to initiatives such as the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and the Asian Forest Partnership. We will continue our efforts through the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, which helps developing nations redirect debt payments toward forest conservation programs. So far, my administration has concluded 12 agreements, concluding up to 50 million acres of forest lands. America's efforts also include an \$87-million initiative to help developing nations stop illegal logging. These efforts will help developing nations save their forests and combat a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

The United States is also taking steps to protect forests in our own country. It's one thing to help others; we got to make sure we do a good job here at home—and we are. Since 2001, we've provided more than \$3 billion to restore our forests and protect them against catastrophic fires as part of the Healthy Forests Initiative. In partnership with our farmers and ranchers, we're providing tens of billions of dollars in incentives for conservation. We're promoting sustainable public and private land management policies. By taking these steps, we've helped increase the amount of carbon storage in our forests, and we've helped safeguard a national treasure for generations to come.

What I'm telling you is, is that we've got a strategy; we've got a comprehensive ap-

proach. And we look forward to working with our Congress to make sure that comprehensive approach is effective. And we look forward to working with you as a part of this global effort to do our duty.

And we've done this kind of work before. And we have confidence in the success of our efforts. Twenty years ago, nations finalized an agreement called the Montreal Protocol to phase out substances that were depleting the ozone layer. Since then, we have made great strides to repair the damage. Just last week, developed and developing nations reached consensus on speeding up the recovery of the ozone layer by accelerating the phaseout of these harmful substances. This accelerated phaseout will bring larger benefits because they'll dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We have seen what happens when we come together to work for a common cause, and we can do it again. And that's what I'm here to urge you. The United States will do our part. We take this issue seriously. And we look forward to bringing a spirit of cooperation and commitment to our efforts to confront the challenges of energy security and climate change. By working together, we will set wise and effective policies. That's what I'm interested in, effective policies. I want to get the job done. We've identified a problem; let's go solve it together.

We will harness the power of technology. There is a way forward that will enable us to grow our economies and protect the environment, and that's called technology. We'll meet our energy needs. We'll be good stewards of this environment. Achieving these goals will require a sustained effort over many decades; this problem isn't going to be solved overnight. Yet years from now, our children are going to look back at the choices we make today, at this deciding moment. It will be a moment when we choose to expand prosperity instead of accepting stagnation. It will be a moment when we turn the tide against greenhouse gas emissions, instead of allowing the problem to grow. It will be a moment when we rejected the predictions of despair and set a course of a more hopeful future.

The moment is now, and I appreciate you attending this meeting. And we look forward to working with you. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:09 a.m. at the Department of State.

Proclamation 8180—To Provide for Duty Elimination for Certain Goods of Mexico Under the North American Free Trade Agreement

September 28, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. On December 17, 1992, the Governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The NAFTA was approved by the Congress in section 101(a) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 103–182) (the “NAFTA Implementation Act”) (19 U.S.C. 3311(a)) and was implemented with respect to the United States by Presidential Proclamation 6641 of December 15, 1993.

2. Section 201(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3331(b)) authorizes the President, subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 103(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3313(a)), to proclaim accelerated schedules of duty elimination that the United States may agree to with Mexico or Canada. Consistent with Article 302(3) of the NAFTA, I, through my duly empowered representative, have entered into an agreement with the Government of Mexico providing for an accelerated schedule of duty elimination for specific goods of Mexico. The consultation and layover requirements of section 103(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act with respect to such schedule of duty elimination have been satisfied.

3. Pursuant to section 201(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act, I have determined that the modifications herein proclaimed of duties on goods originating in the territory of Mexico are necessary or appropriate to maintain the general level of recip-

rocal and mutually advantageous concessions with respect to Mexico provided for by the NAFTA, and to carry out the agreement with Mexico providing an accelerated schedule of duty elimination for specific goods.

4. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of relevant provisions of that Act, or other acts affecting import treatment, and actions taken thereunder.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to section 201(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act and section 604 of the 1974 Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to provide an accelerated schedule of duty elimination for specific goods of Mexico under the terms of general note 12 to the HTS, the tariff treatment set forth in the HTS is modified as provided in the Annex to this proclamation.

(2) The amendments made to the HTS by the Annex to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after October 1, 2007.

(3) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:47 a.m., October 1, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation and its attached annex will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 2.

**Executive Order 13446—
Continuance of Certain Federal
Advisory Committees and
Amendments to and Revocation of
Other Executive Orders**

September 28, 2007

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and consistent with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Each advisory committee listed below is continued until September 30, 2009.

(a) Committee for the Preservation of the White House; Executive Order 11145, as amended (Department of the Interior).

(b) National Infrastructure Advisory Council; section 3 of Executive Order 13231, as amended (Department of Homeland Security).

(c) Federal Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health; Executive Order 12196, as amended (Department of Labor).

(d) President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities; Executive Order 13256 (Department of Education).

(e) President's Board of Advisors on Tribal Colleges and Universities; Executive Order 13270 (Department of Education).

(f) President's Commission on White House Fellowships; Executive Order 11183, as amended (Office of Personnel Management).

(g) President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities; Executive Order 12994, as amended (Department of Health and Human Services).

(h) President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities; Executive Order 12367, as amended (National Endowment for the Arts).

(i) President's Committee on the International Labor Organization; Executive Order 12216, as amended (Department of Labor).

(j) President's Committee on the National Medal of Science; Executive Order 11287, as amended (National Science Foundation).

(k) President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology; Executive Order

13226, as amended (Office of Science and Technology Policy).

(l) President's Council on Bioethics; Executive Order 13237 (Department of Health and Human Services).

(m) President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports; Executive Order 13265 (Department of Health and Human Services).

(n) President's Export Council; Executive Order 12131, as amended (Department of Commerce).

(o) President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee; Executive Order 12382, as amended (Department of Homeland Security).

(p) Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee; Executive Order 12905 (Office of the United States Trade Representative).

Sec. 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Executive Order, the functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act that are applicable to the committees listed in section 1 of this order shall be performed by the head of the department or agency designated after each committee, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 3. The following Executive Order, which established a committee whose work has been completed, is revoked: Executive Order 13369, as amended by Executive Orders 13379 and 13386, establishing the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform.

Sec. 4. Sections 1 and 2 of Executive Order 13385 are superseded by sections 1 and 2 of this order.

Sec. 5. Executive Order 12994, as amended (President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities) is further amended to read as follows:

"By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to promote full participation of people with intellectual disabilities in their communities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

"Section 1. Committee Continued and Responsibilities Expanded. The President's

Committee on Mental Retardation, with expanded membership and expanded responsibilities, and renamed the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (Committee), is hereby continued in operation.

"Sec. 2. Composition of Committee. (a) The Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The Attorney General;
- (2) The Secretary of the Interior;
- (3) The Secretary of Commerce;
- (4) The Secretary of Labor;
- (5) The Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- (6) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;
- (7) The Secretary of Transportation;
- (8) The Secretary of Education;
- (9) The Secretary of Homeland Security;
- (10) The Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service;
- (11) The Commissioner of Social Security;
- (12) The Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission;
- (13) The Chairperson of the National Council on Disability; and
- (14) No more than 21 other members who shall be appointed to the Committee by the President. These citizen members shall consist of individuals who represent a broad spectrum of perspectives, experience, and expertise on intellectual disabilities; persons with intellectual disabilities and members of families with a child or adult with intellectual disabilities; and persons employed in either the public or the private sector. Except as the President may from time to time otherwise direct, appointees under this paragraph shall serve for two-year terms, except that an appointment made to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of a term shall be made for the balance of the unexpired term.

"(b) The President shall designate the Chair of the Committee from the 21 citizen members. The Chair shall preside over meetings of the Committee and represent the Committee on appropriate occasions.

"Sec. 3. Functions of the Committee. (a) Consistent with subsection (c) of this section, the Committee shall:

- (1) provide such advice concerning intellectual disabilities as the President or the Secretary of Health and Human Services may request; and
- (2) provide advice to the President concerning the following for people with intellectual disabilities:
 - (A) expansion of educational opportunities;
 - (B) promotion of homeownership;
 - (C) assurance of workplace integration;
 - (D) improvement of transportation options;
 - (E) expansion of full access to community living; and
 - (F) increasing access to assistive and universally designed technologies.

"(b) The Committee shall provide an annual report to the President through the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Such additional reports may be made as the President may direct or as the Committee may deem appropriate.

"(c) The members shall advise the President and carry out their advisory role consistent with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.).

"Sec. 4. Cooperation by Agencies. The heads of Federal departments and agencies shall:

"(a) designate, when requested by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, an officer or employee of such department or agency to serve as a liaison with the Committee; and

"(b) furnish such information and assistance to the Committee, to the extent permitted by law, as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may request to assist the Committee in performing its functions under this order.

"Sec. 5. Administration. (a) The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide the Committee with necessary staff support, administrative services and facilities, and funding, to the extent permitted by law.

“(b) Each member of the Committee, except any member who receives other compensation from the United States Government, may receive compensation for each day engaged in the work of the Committee, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 3109), and may also receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707), for persons employed intermittently in the Government service. Committee members with disabilities may be compensated for attendant expenses, consistent with Government procedures and practices.

“(c) The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall perform such other functions with respect to the Committee as may be required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), except that of reporting to the Congress.

“**Sec. 6. General.** (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed as subjecting any Federal agency, or any function vested by law in, or assigned pursuant to law to, any Federal agency, to the authority of the Committee or as abrogating or restricting any such function in any manner.

“(b) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.”.

Sec. 6. This order shall be effective September 30, 2007.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 28, 2007.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:47 a.m., October 1, 2007]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 2.

Presidential Determination on Energy Assistance for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

September 28, 2007

Presidential Determination No. 2007–34

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on Energy Assistance for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 610(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the “Act”), I hereby determine that it is necessary for the purposes of the Act that \$25 million in FY07 funds available for assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States under the Act and the Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act be transferred to and consolidated with funds made available for chapter 4 of part II of the Act, and such funds are hereby transferred and consolidated.

In addition, pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 614(a)(1) of the Act, I hereby determine that it is important to the security interests of the United States to furnish up to \$25 million in funds made available pursuant to chapter 4 of part II of the Act, comprised of funds transferred pursuant to this determination, for energy assistance for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea without regard to any provision of law within the purview of section 614(a)(1) of the Act. I hereby authorize the furnishing of this assistance.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

**Memorandum on Waiver of
Limitation on Obligation and
Expenditure of \$1,051.6 Million in
Fiscal Year 2007 Economic Support
Funds for Iraq**

September 28, 2007

Presidential Determination No. 2007–35

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver of Limitation on Obligation and Expenditure of \$1,051.6 Million in Fiscal Year 2007 Economic Support Funds for Iraq

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 1314(c)(2) of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 110–28) (the "Act"), I hereby waive the requirements of section 1314(c)(1) for \$1,051.6 Million of Fiscal Year 2007 Economic Support Funds for Iraq and direct you to submit to the Congress this determination along with the certification in accordance with section 1314(c)(2) of the Act.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

September 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Old Family Dining Room, he participated in an interview with Juan Williams of FOX News. Then, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo

opportunity with Deputy Assistant Attorney General John C. "Jack" Keeney to honor his 60 years of Government service.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, NY, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush. Later, he met with Quartet Representative in the Middle East Tony Blair.

In the evening, the President traveled to the United Nations Headquarters, where he participated in a leaders dinner on climate change. Later, he returned to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of the Presidential delegation to attend the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China, on October 2: Margaret Spellings (head of delegation); Clark T. Randt, Jr.; John H. Hager; Ernie Banks; Lynn Fuchs; Michelle Kwan; Eunice Kennedy Shriver; Timothy P. Shriver; Anne Sweeney; and Jennifer Polk Wardlow.

September 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to the United Nations Headquarters, where he participated in an official greeting with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and President of the 62d Session of the United Nations General Assembly Srgjan Kerim. He then met separately with Secretary-General Ban and President Kerim.

Later in the morning, the President returned to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the United Nations Headquarters.

In the evening, the President returned to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

The President announced his intention to nominate Javaid Anwar to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Madonna Cynthia Douglass to be a member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Christina H. Pearson to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services

(Public Affairs) and, upon nomination, to designate her as Acting.

The President announced his intention to nominate Douglas W. Webster to be Chief Financial Officer at the Department of Labor.

The President announced his intention to designate Christopher A. Padilla as Acting Under Secretary for International Trade at the Department of Commerce.

The President announced his intention to designate John C. Rood as Acting Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security at the Department of State.

The President declared a major disaster in Illinois and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding from August 20–31.

September 26

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush met with United States Mission to the United Nations staff and their families. They then met with Joel I. Klein, chancellor, New York City Department of Education. Then, at a private residence, they attended a Republican National Committee reception.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

September 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo opportunity with Big Brother of the Year, Charles Matthews, and Big Sister of the Year, Crystal Rivera.

In the afternoon, the President met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Yang Jiechi of China.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will host Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on November 9–10.

September 28

In the morning, the President had a video teleconference with Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Map Room, the President participated in an interview with

Michael Rutz and Stephan Lamby of ARD German Television.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi to discuss SCHIP reauthorization legislation.

In the evening, at the Library of Congress, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the 2007 National Book Festival Gala and dinner.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 25

Christina H. Pearson, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Suzanne C. DeFrancis, resigned.

Withdrawn September 25

John A. Rizzo, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency, vice Scott W. Muller, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on January 9, 2007.

Submitted September 27

Javaid Anwar, of Nevada, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2007, vice Elmer B. Staats, term expired.

Javaid Anwar, of Nevada, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2013 (reappointment).

Madonna Cynthia Douglass, of Virginia, to be a member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2013, vice W. Scott Railton, term expired.

Douglas W. Webster,
of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer,
Department of Labor, vice Samuel T. Mok,
resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released September 22

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Montreal Protocol to reduce greenhouse gases and protect the ozone layer

Released September 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino and a senior administration official on the President's bilateral meetings

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Dana Perino and National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley

Statement by the Press Secretary: Egypt: Setbacks on Press Freedom and Civil Society

Fact sheet: Today's Education Announcement

Released September 25

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley on the President's bilateral with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Council Senior Director for Democracy, Human Rights, and International Organizations Michael Kozak

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's support for reauthorizing SCHIP

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Illinois

Fact sheet: A Mission of Liberation Around the World

Fact sheet: Burma: Calling for Human Dignity and Democracy

Released September 26

Fact sheet: 2007 Nation's Report Card Shows Minority Students Posting All-Time Highs

Released September 27

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters, Federal Aviation Administration Acting Administrator Robert A. Sturgell, and Domestic Policy Council Deputy Director Jess Sharp on aviation congestion

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's decision to veto the SCHIP reauthorization bill passed by Congress

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2669 and H.R. 3580

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3528

Fact sheet: Major Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change

Fact sheet: College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007

Fact sheet: New Steps To Address Airport Passenger Delays

Released September 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 954, H.R. 3218, and H.R. 3375

Fact sheet: Toward a New Global Approach to Climate Change and Energy Security

Excerpt of the President's radio address

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved September 27

H.R. 2669 / Public Law 110–84
College Cost Reduction and Access Act

H.R. 3580 / Public Law 110–85
Food and Drug Administration Amendments
Act of 2007

H.R. 3528 / Public Law 110–86
To provide authority to the Peace Corps to
provide separation pay for host country resi-
dent personal services contractors of the
Peace Corps

Approved September 28

H.R. 954 / Public Law 110–87
To designate the facility of the United States
Postal Service located at 365 West 125th
Street in New York, New York, as the “Percy
Sutton Post Office Building”

H.R. 3218 / Public Law 110–88
To designate a portion of Interstate Route
395 located in Baltimore, Maryland, as “Cal
Ripken Way”

H.R. 3375 / Public Law 110–89
To extend the trade adjustment assistance
program under the Trade Act of 1974 for
3 months